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E.O. 12958: DECL: 06/06/2017
TAGS: [PREL](#) [PARM](#) [NATO](#) [KCFE](#) [BU](#)
SUBJECT: BULGARIA BACKS U.S. APPROACH TO CFE EXTRAORDINARY
CONFERENCE

REF: A. STATE 77371
[1](#)B. STATE 75293
[1](#)C. SOFIA 682

Classified By: Pol/Ec Counselor Brad Freden, for reasons 1.4 (b) and (d).

[1](#)1. (C) We delivered reftel A points on June 6 to Gergana Velichkova, the MFA's Acting Director of OSCE and Regional Security Affairs and Col. Stefan Yanev, Director of Defense Policy at the MOD. Both remarked that U.S. views on the upcoming conference were almost identical to those of the GoB and expressed appreciation for the U.S.'s "constructive approach" to engaging Russia. They also committed to sharing our points immediately with Bulgarian missions in Brussels and Vienna in order to inform the Bulgarian delegation in advance of the June 7 HLTF meeting.

[1](#)2. (C) On the maximalist nature of the Russian document, Velichkova agreed that it was clearly not meant as the basis for consensus among all states-parties. She said that the Russians knew this, and that "we have information that the Russians would be happy if even one of their concerns" were accepted as valid. Col. Yanev stated that he saw this issue, along with inflated concerns over missile defense, as being manufactured by Russia in order to "raise their price" in an eventual bargain with Allies.

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